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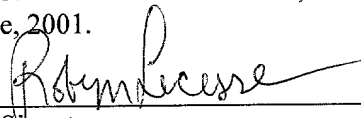
THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Richard W. Schaaf et al
Serial No: 09/814,246
Filed: March 20, 2001
For: ORGANIZING AND COMBINING A HIERARCHY OF
CONFIGURATION PARAMETERS TO PRODUCE AN ENTITY
PROFILE FOR AN ENTITY ASSOCIATED WITH A
COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

Examiner: Not yet assigned
Art Unit: 2151

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document is being placed in the United States mail with first-class postage attached, addressed to **BOX MISSING PARTS**, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the 21st day of June, 2001.



Signature

BOX MISSING PARTS
Commissioner For Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to Examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

In the Figures

Under separate letter to the Official Draftsperson, Applicant proposes drawing corrections to Figures 3, 5A, 5B and 7. Applicant also submits formal drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.84.

In the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 10 as follows:

Figs 3A and 3B are a block diagram illustrating an example of a database schema for implementing at least a portion of the logical representation of a hierarchy of configuration parameter sets;

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 15 as follows:

Figs. 5A, 5B, and 5C are a flowchart illustrating an example of a method of combining a plurality of configuration parameters in accordance with a combining procedure to produce an entity profile;

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 12 as follows:

For example, Jane Doe may not belong to a Work Group or a department, but may belong to Acme Widgets, Inc. Such an entity may be an executive of Acme Widgets, Inc. or another officer, director or employee of Acme Widgets, Inc. whose position is independent of a department or work group. Accordingly, CPS 45, which corresponds to Jane Doe, may be hierarchically related to CPS 38, but not hierarchically related to any CPSs of the department level 26 or the work group level 28, as illustrated in Fig. 2.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 8 as follows:

Figs. 3A and 3B are a block diagram illustrating an example of a relational database schema 60 for implementing a plurality of CPSs for a hierarchy of entities for example, at least part of the logical representation 20 of Fig. 2. The database schema 60 may include, among other data structures, a configuration set table 62, a reference configuration set table 72, a configuration set parameter permissions table 82, a configuration set parameters table 92 and a reference parameters table 106.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 29 as follows:

The final flag field 114 may store a Boolean value indicating whether, for the species of parameter identified by field 110, a value defined for a parameter of this species is a final value for a parameter having the name specified by Field 112. Final values for parameters are described below in more detail in relation to Figs. 5A-5C.

Please replace the paragraphs beginning on page 20, line 1 as follows:

The aggregable flag field 116 indicates whether, for the species of parameter identified by field 110, a value defined for a parameter of this species is aggregable with values defined for parameters having the name specified by Field 112. Aggregable values for parameters are described in more detail below in relation to Figs. 5A-5C.

The mobility field 118 may store a Boolean value, for example, a flag, indicating whether a parameter of the species of parameter identified by field 110 may be used for more than one network device of a communications network. The mobility value of a parameter is described in more detail below in relation to Figs. 5A-5C.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 23, line 22 as follows:

For example, two or more CPSs, each CPS corresponding to a different level of a hierarchy, may be combined to produce an entity profile as described below in more detail in relation to Figs. 4 and 5A-5C. Such an entity profile may be used to configure a network device of the network.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 27, line 31 as follows:

In response to these CPSs being identified, the one or more CPSs may be retrieved, for example, from one or more tables of a relational database, such as tables 62 and 92 of database schema 60 described above in relation to Figs. 3A and 3B.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 28, line 16 as follows:

Each entry 231 of table 230 may correspond to an entry 94 of configuration set parameters table 92 described above in relation to Figs. 3A and 3B. For example, entries 233, 235, and 237 may correspond to entries 103, 99, and 101, respectively; entries 239 and 241 may correspond to entries 91 and 93, respectively and entries 243 and 245 may correspond to entries 95 and 97, respectively. Further, each entry may include a plurality of fields corresponding to the configuration parameter. For example, each field may correspond to one of the fields of one of the tables 62, 72, 82, 92 and 106 of database schema 60 described above in relation to Figs. 3A and 3B.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 29 line 6 as follows:

Name field 238 may contain a value specifying the name of the parameter identified by field 236. Different parameters of different CPSs (i.e., different entries of table 230) may have a same name, the significance of which will become more clear below in the description of method 170 of Figs. 5A-5C.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 29, line 23 as follows:

Figs. 5A-5C are a flowchart illustrating an example of a method 170 of combining a plurality of CPSs in accordance with a combining procedure to produce an entity profile.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 33, line 30 as follows:

Method 170 may include additional acts not illustrated as part of Figs 5A-5C. For example, after retrieving a value defined for a current parameter in either Act 182 or Act 183, it may be determined whether the retrieved value is defines as having mobility (i.e., being mobile) by the current CPS. Such a determination may be made by accessing mobility field 118 of the appropriate entry 108 of table 106. Alternatively, such determination may be made by accessing one of the other fields 246 of the appropriate entry 231 of table 230.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 40, line 7 as follows:

Further, configuration data 308 may include one or more of the tables 62, 72, 82, 92 and 106 described above in relation to Figs. 3A and 3B and may include other relational database tables, such as a table including a plurality of entries, where each entry corresponds to an entity or an entity group, wherein one of these entries may correspond to the network entry identified by the entity ID 296.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 40, line 22 as follows:

The combining component 290, in response to receiving instruction 288, may use entity ID 296 to extract one or more CPSs 302 from DBMS 306. For example, the combining component 290 may be configured to perform Acts 146-150 as described above in relation to Fig. 4 and Figs. 5A-5C. The combining component 290 then may combine the one or more CPSs 302 to produce the entity profile data 292, for example, as described above in relation to Fig. 4 and Figs. 5A-5C.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendments prior to the first action in this application. Favorable consideration is requested.

To further prosecution of this application, Applicants submit Formal Drawings that comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.84. In addition, minor corrections are proposed for Figs. 3, 5A, 5B, and 7, as indicated in red ink on informal Figs. 3, 5A, 5B and 7, attached hereto. These proposed corrections result from the dividing of Fig. 3 into Figs. 3A and 3B and the dividing of Figs. 5A and 5B into 5A-5C, and are reflected in the Formal Drawings.

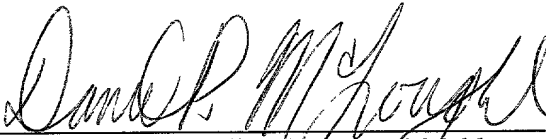
No new matter has been added by these proposed corrections, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to approve them.

Further, minor corrections are proposed for the Specification as illustrated on the document attached hereto entitled "Marked-Up Specification."

No new matter has been added by these proposed corrections, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to approve them.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard W. Schaaf et al, Applicant(s)

By: 
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Docket No. P0700/7004/GSE/DPM
Dated: June 29, 2001
x06/30/01

Marked-Up Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 10 as follows:

[Fig. 3 is] Figs 3A and 3B are a block diagram illustrating an example of a database schema for implementing at least a portion of the logical representation of a hierarchy of configuration parameter sets;

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 15 as follows:

[Figs. 5A-5B] Figs. 5A, 5B, and 5C are a flowchart illustrating an example of a method of combining a plurality of configuration parameters in accordance with a combining procedure to produce an entity profile;

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 12 as follows:

For example, Jane Doe may not belong to a Work Group or a department, but may belong to Acme Widgets, Inc. Such an entity may be an executive of Acme Widgets, Inc. or another officer, director or employee of Acme Widgets, Inc. whose position is independent of a department or work group. Accordingly, CPS 45, which corresponds to Jane Doe, may be hierarchically related to CPS 38, but not hierarchically related to any CPSs of the department level 26 or the work group level [328] 28, as illustrated in Fig. 2.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 8 as follows:

[Fig. 3 is] Figs. 3A and 3B are a block diagram illustrating an example of a relational database schema 60 for implementing a plurality of CPSs for a hierarchy of entities for example, at least part of the logical representation 20 of Fig. 2. The database schema 60 may include, among other data structures, a configuration set table 62, a reference configuration set table 72, a configuration set parameter permissions table 82, a configuration set parameters table 92 and a reference parameters table 106.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 29 as follows:

The final flag field 114 may store a Boolean value indicating whether, for the species of parameter identified by field 110, a value defined for a parameter of this species is a final value for a parameter having the name specified by Field 112. Final values for parameters are described below in more detail in relation to Figs. [5A-5B] 5A-5C.

Please replace the paragraphs beginning on page 20, line 1 as follows:

The aggregable flag field 116 indicates whether, for the species of parameter identified by field 110, a value defined for a parameter of this species is aggregable with values defined for parameters having the name specified by Field 112. Aggregable values for parameters are described in more detail below in relation to Figs. [5A-5B] 5A-5C.

The mobility field 118 may store a Boolean value, for example, a flag, indicating whether a parameter of the species of parameter identified by field 110 may be used for more than one network device of a communications network. The mobility value of a parameter is described in more detail below in relation to Figs. [5A-5B] 5A-5C.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 23, line 22 as follows:

For example, two or more CPSs, each CPS corresponding to a different level of a hierarchy, may be combined to produce an entity profile as described below in more detail in relation to Figs. 4 and [5A-5B] 5A-5C. Such an entity profile may be used to configure a network device of the network.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 27, line 31 as follows:

In response to these CPSs being identified, the one or more CPSs may be retrieved, for example, from one or more tables of a relational database, such as tables 62 and 92 of database schema 60 described above in relation to [Fig. 3] Figs. 3A and 3B.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 28, line 16 as follows:

Each entry 231 of table 230 may correspond to an entry 94 of configuration set parameters table 92 described above in relation to [Fig. 3] Figs. 3A and 3B. For example, entries 233, 235, and 237 may correspond to entries 103, 99, and 101, respectively; entries 239 and 241 may correspond to entries 91 and 93, respectively and entries 243 and 245 may correspond to entries 95 and 97, respectively. Further, each entry may include a plurality of fields corresponding to the configuration parameter. For example, each field may correspond to one of the fields of one of the tables 62, 72, 82, 92 and 106 of database schema 60 described above in relation to [Fig. 3] Figs. 3A and 3B.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 29 line 6 as follows:

Name field 238 may contain a value specifying the name of the parameter identified by field 236. Different parameters of different CPSs (i.e., different entries of table 230) may have a same name, the significance of which will become more clear below in the description of method 170 of Figs. [5A and 5B] 5A-5C.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 29, line 23 as follows:

Figs. [5A-5B] 5A-5C are a flowchart illustrating an example of a method 170 of combining a plurality of CPSs in accordance with a combining procedure to produce an entity profile.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 33, line 30 as follows:

Method 170 may include additional acts not illustrated as part of Figs [5A and 5B] 5A-5C. For example, after retrieving a value defined for a current parameter in either Act 182 or Act 183, it may be determined whether the retrieved value is defines as having mobility (i.e., being mobile) by the current CPS. Such a determination may be made by accessing mobility field 118 of the appropriate entry 108 of table 106. Alternatively, such determination may be made by accessing one of the other fields 246 of the appropriate entry 231 of table 230.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 40, line 7 as follows:

Further, configuration data 308 may include one or more of the tables 62, 72, 82, 92 and 106 described above in relation to [Fig. 3] Figs. 3A and 3B and may include other relational database tables, such as a table including a plurality of entries, where each entry corresponds to an entity or an entity group, wherein one of these entries may correspond to the network entry identified by the entity ID 296.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 40, line 22 as follows:

The combining component 290, in response to receiving instruction 288, may use entity ID 296 to extract one or more CPSs 302 from DBMS 306. For example, the combining component 290 may be configured to perform Acts 146-150 as described above in relation to Fig. 4 and Figs. [5a-5b] 5A-5C. The combining component 290 then may combine the one or

more CPSs 302 to produce the entity profile data 292, for example, as described above in relation to Fig. 4 and Figs. [5a-5b] 5A-5C.

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